

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF COMMERCE & INDUSTRY
(DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE)

LOK SABHA
UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 1276
ANSWERED ON 30/07/2024

RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF CARDAMOM BOARD

1276. ADV DEAN KURIAKOSE:

Will the Minister of **COMMERCE & INDUSTRY** (वाणिज्य एवं उद्योग मंत्री) be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the Government will re-establish the Cardamom board, which was working towards improving the lives of Cardamom farmers;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether the Government has the estimates of the large scale losses accrued to cardamom farmers due to drought during the last year and if so, the details thereof;
- (d) whether the Government has received any request for assistance from the State Government of Kerala to assist cardamom farmers affected by drought;
- (e) if so, the details thereof including the action taken by the Government in this regard;
- (f) whether the Government has any proposal to create a new package for helping cardamom farmers from Idukki who are affected by drought; and
- (g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

ANSWER

वाणिज्य और उद्योग मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री जितिन प्रसाद)

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
(SHRI JITIN PRASADA)

(a) & (b) Spices Board was constituted under the Spices Board Act, 1986, by merging the erstwhile Cardamom Board & Spices Export Promotion Council. The mandate for Spices Board includes research, production, development, domestic marketing, consumption and export promotion of Cardamom (Small & Large) along with export promotion of 51 other spices. Presently, no such proposal is under consideration.

Spices Board is carrying out various activities to improve the lives of cardamom farmers that include extending financial assistance for improved methods of cultivation and processing of cardamom, for replanting cardamom and for extension of cardamom growing areas; promote co-operative effort among growers of cardamom; provide training in cardamom testing and fixing grade standards of cardamom.

Also, the initiatives taken by Spices Board since its inception in 1987 has helped to increase the Production of Small Cardamom from 3200 MT in 1987-88 to 25231 MT in 2023-24; increase in Productivity of Small Cardamom from 46 kg/ha in 1987-88 to 521.33 kg/ha in 2023-

24; increase in quantity of Small Cardamom exports from 270 MT in 1987-88 to 6,168 MT in 2023-24 and increase the value of Small Cardamom export from Rs 3.4 Cr in 1987-88 to Rs 999.59 Cr during 2023-24. In case of Large cardamom, production has increased from 2250 MT in 1987 to 9288 MT in 2023-24; productivity increased from 96 kg/ha in 1987 to 288.54 kg/ha in 2023-24; quantity of exports increased from 155 MT in 1987-88 to 1281 MT in 2023-24 and value of large Cardamom export increased from Rs 0.70 Cr in 1987-88 to Rs 148.15 Cr during 2023-24. The increased productivity and production has also helped in improving the lives of cardamom farmers

(c) to (g) Spices Board has assessed the extent of damage caused by the recent dry spell that occurred in Idukki district. It has been observed that plantations with proper shade regulation, canopy size and irrigation facilities have survived with minimal damage.

Spices Board has received a request from Government of Kerala for providing replanting assistance to cardamom farmers affected by drought. Spices Board is implementing the scheme ‘Sustainability in Spice Sector through Progressive, Innovative and Collaborative Interventions for Export Development (SPICED)’ and assistance for replantation, as provided by Spices Board under the said scheme, is also being extended to those affected by the dry spell. Spices Board is implementing a Weather Based Insurance Scheme for small cardamom growers to mitigate the losses of cardamom growers due to vagaries of weather, under which those affected growers who have subscribed to the scheme will also avail the benefits under the scheme.

Presently, no proposal for a new package for Idukki cardamom farmers is under consideration.
